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Dated: 3/22/04

Signature: Abby Berghella (Abby Berghella)



Docket No.: **P040 (formerly 032304-040)**
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
John F. Shanley

Application No.: 10/057,414

Group Art Unit: 3731

Filed: January 25, 2002

Examiner: Thaler, Michael H.

For: EXPANDABLE MEDICAL DEVICE WITH
TAPERED HINGE

Confirmation No.: 9725

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Final Office Action dated December 22, 2003 for which a response is due on March 22, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

In the claims:

1-47. Canceled

48. (Currently Amended) An expandable medical device comprising:
a plurality of elongated beams, the plurality of elongated beams joined together to form a substantially cylindrical device which is expandable from a cylinder having a first diameter to a